



**T**ara (Reistad) Bowman, 36, passed away Thursday, March 5, 2009, as a result of a gas explosion in downtown Bozeman. She was born on March 9, 1972, to Skip Reistad and Chet Reistad. We know she is in heaven with God, her father Chet Reistad, and all the friends and loved ones who have passed before her.

Tara was born in Bozeman and had a full childhood growing up on her Dad's small farm east of town. Chet Reistad allowed Tara and her four brothers to own and purchase animals as a lesson in responsibility. And their farm was a lively place as they grew up filled with dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, cattle, and horses. Through her high school years Tara's animals meant the world to her. She often found solace in some of her favorites—Ears her pet cow, Fester her bull, Mama Kitty, and Mudwell her pig. Upon graduation from Bozeman High School in 1990 Tara began a long road of diligent self discovery. Tara spent some time studying dance and psychology at Montana State University and University of Montana, traveled extensively to places as far off as Africa, and also lived briefly in Hawaii, San Francisco, and New York City. Tara met Chris, the love of her life in November 1997. She and her husband were inseparable from that day on and were married August 6, 2005. Tara touched many people through her work as gallery director at Montana Trails Gallery. At work she was known to have an uncanny ability to remember customers and as someone who loved people more than the art or the need to make a sale. In her adult life Tara was known for her unwavering dedication to those she loved, especially her father, mother, brothers, nieces, nephews, and many close friends. Tara will forever be remembered for her brave capacity to love, her willingness to be accountable for her actions, her true inner and outer beauty, her laugh, and her amazing smile.

She is survived by her husband, Chris Bowman; mother, Skip Reistad; brothers, Chett Reistad, Will (Emily) Reistad, Garth (Dell) Reistad, Cory (Kyrsten) Reistad; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Grace Bible Church on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 3:00 P.M. A reception will be held at the Emerson Cultural Center Ballroom following the service.

Donations in Tara's memory may be made to the Tara (Reistad) Bowman Memorial Endowment Fund at First Security Bank in Bozeman. The Fund will be used to support the Bozeman Help Center and Multiple Sclerosis research—two organizations close to Tara's heart.